

Excavation at Fatehpur Sikri

3230. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the reports of the excavation conducted recently at Fatehpur Sikri by Archaeological Survey of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that ASI had not submitted any reports pertaining to the earlier excavations conducted at various other places; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The ASI has recently conducted two separate excavations at Fatehpur Sikri in Agra district. The first excavation relates to the discovery of an underground 'cool chamber' beneath the existing Anup Talao in the palace complex which has corroborated contemporary accounts in this regard. The second excavation at Bir Chhabili-ka-tila, at a separate site, has yielded sculptures of Jain dieties datable to the 10th-11th century A.D.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Excavation reports of ASI

3231. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of excavation reports submitted by the Archaeological Survey of India out of over 46 sites, in which the ASI is engaged since a longtime;

(b) whether the ASI is following international standard in conducting or further continuing excavations in sites; if so, what are those standards; and